

Benefits

TPMS will provide a substantial degree of automation while significantly reducing bridge hits. These benefits are described in more detail below:

AUTOMATION

TPMS will automatically issue, without human intervention, any permit that does not require a custom-designed detour, CHP escort, or Structures review. TPMS is expected to issue 55-70% of all transportation permits automatically, in less than five minutes. Approximately 55% of all permits involve legal height loads and most likely will not require detours. Approximately 15% of permit loads are between 14' and 14'6" high and most likely will not require detours. Of the permits that require detours, many can be handled with standard detours, and will not require human intervention.

TPMS will automatically:

- Issue completed permits via the Internet, fax, and e-mail.
- Reject permit applications with missing and improper data, and inform the customer of the reason for the rejection.
- Reject permit applications with non-permissible dimensions, and inform the customer of the reason for the rejection.
- Determine whether or not an Inspection Report is required.
- Copy Inspection Report data onto the permit application.
- Validate a proposed route by comparing all vehicle and load dimensions (height, weight, width, length, and kingpin-to-last-axle) against the route conditions and restrictions.
- Determine if a permit can be issued without a permit writer's review.
- Indicate potential problems with the requested route to the permit writer.
- Identify preferred alternative State highway detours.
- Double-check the approved route before issuing the permit.
- Indicate permit writer or computer-generated revisions to the permit application in a manner that is easily recognizable by the applicant.
- Identify pilot car requirements.
- Determine and generate required permit attachment documents with the permit.
- Notify all permit holders of route condition changes affecting their routes within one hour from receipt of the change notice.
- Track the status of each permit at each stage of permit processing using a date/time stamp. (Note: The status will be viewable by the customer and Caltrans.)
- Reject permit applications from suspended companies.
- Allow the customer and permit writer to view each route segment through an electronic map or graphic medium.
- Charge credit cards before issuing the permit.

Benefits

REDUCE BRIDGE HITS

TPMS will reduce bridge hits in the following ways:

- Haulers will be more likely to obtain permits because the average permit turnaround time will be greatly reduced. Complete and accurate permit applications will be completed and returned to the applicant within five minutes. Bootlegging, and the associated bridge hits, will be reduced.
- The on-line permit application will include on-line help, default values, and Boolean logic. This will simplify the application process and increase the likelihood that out-of-state haulers and infrequent haulers will obtain permits. Bootlegging, and the associated bridge hits, will be reduced.
- All permits will be typewritten. This will reduce the likelihood that a driver will not be able to read an approved route (i.e. – it will reduce “off route” bridge hits).
- All approved routes will be written in a standardized format. This will reduce the likelihood that a driver will misunderstand the approved route (i.e. – it will reduce “off route” bridge hits).
- All permits will be automatically double-checked by the computer before they are returned to the customer. This will eliminate bridge hits due to permit writer error.
- The new system will automatically check the customer’s records (to make sure they are not suspended) before issuing a permit. This will eliminate the possibility of issuing a permit to a suspended company. The increased enforcement of suspensions will increase the likelihood that companies will be more careful with height measurements, thus reducing bridge hits. Companies will also be more likely to obtain permits, which will also reduce bridge hits.